GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:139
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
VPT BY BSNL
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;NAWAL KISHORE RAI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) had fixed some target in regard to providing telephone facility in rural areas of the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of the target;

(c) the total funds required for achieving the target;

(d) whether BSNL has obtained the funds for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the facts of the matter and percentage of the target achieved till date?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PI MAHAJAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 139 FOR 27TH NOVEMBER, 2002 REGARDING VPT BY BSNL.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has fixed a target of providing 13.34 lakh rural telephone connections in the country during the current financial year. Out of this, 8 lakh connections have been planned on wire line and 5.34 lakh on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems. This would include 47439 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) which have been planned in those villages which do not have any telecom facility so far. While 8000 VPTs have been planned on satellite media, most of the remaining villages are to be covered by WLL systems. The total funds required for achieving the above target are approximately Rs. 2709 crores. Besides seeking refund of licence fee, spectrum charges and other relief on dividend/interest payments etc., BSNL has sought funds from the Government for provision of satellite VPTs. Approximately 23% of the DEL target and 73.7% of the VPT target have been achieved so far.